

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COME-00 AEC-11 USIE-00 SY-10

SSO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

FBIE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 AECE-00 RSR-01

NSCE-00 /098 W

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O 201540Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4853

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, EI

SUBJ: ALLEGEDLY STOLEN RADIOACTIVE CYLINDER

DEPT PASS DEPT OF COMMERCE; AEC; AND HOLZAPFEL IWE/USIA

1. A RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE, BEING USED SOME 30 MILES OFF LRK COAST, WAS APPARENTLY STOLEN FROM OIL RIG GLOMAR NORTH SEA (UNDER CONTRACT TO MARATHON OIL) AROUND JULY 14. ISOTOPE WAS KEPT INSIDE CYLINDER WHICH BLOCKED RADIOACTIVE EMISSIONS. LOCAL PRESS HAS OVERLOOKED OR DOES NOT REALIZE FACT THAT CORPORATION DOING DRILLING IS CONTRACTEE OF MARATHON, REFERRING ONLY TO "MARATHON OIL COMPANY, AN AMERICAN GROUP," AS RESPONSIBLE PARTY.

2. FOLLOWING INSISTENT PRESS INQUIRIES, EMBASSY CONTACTED RALPH TRIMBLE, DIRECTOR OF MARATHON FOR

IRELAND, WHO STATED THAT APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICES WERE ALERTED AND ARE BEING KEPT APPRISED OF SEARCH RESULTS.

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IRISH POLICE ASSISTING IN SEARCH. "IRISH TIMES" CLAIMS

THAT A NEARBY IRISH NAVAL BASE AND THE MARINE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER KNEW NOTHING OF INCIDENT AS LATE AS THREE DAYS AFTER OCCURENCE, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT SEE RELEVANCE OF THIS ASSOCIATION. EMBASSY INQUIRED WHETHER AEC HAD BEEN INFORMED OF LOSS AND TRIMBLE REPLIED THERE WAS "NO LEGAL NEED TO DO SO BUT THAT AS A MATTER OF COURTESY THE AEC WOULD BE NOTIFIED IF ISOTOPE IS NOT RECOVERED, SINCE ISOTOPE WAS OBTAINED FROM AEC AND IS SERIALIZED." HE ADDED THAT REPORT WOULD BE FORWARDED THROUGH DEPT OF COMMERCE. TRIMBLE DECLINES DISCUSS CASE WITH JOURNALISTS, REFERRING THEM TO IRISH PR FIRM USED BY MARATHON. THIS PROCEDURE TOTALLY UNSATISFACTORY TO JOURNALISTS WHO NOW CALL EMBASSY FOR INFO.

3. WHILE MARATHON OFFICIALS DOWNPLAY INCIDENT IRISH JOURNALISTS PREPARED, IN TRUE SCIENCE FICTION FASHION, TO CAPITALIZE ON WHAT THEY CALL "BIZARRE AND PUZZLING INCIDENT" THAT IS "HIGHLY DANGEROUS." "IRISH TIMES" SPECULATES THAT ISOTOPE WAS STOLEN BY "ONE OF THE MANY GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE EXPLOITATION OF IRISH MINERAL WEALTH BY FOREIGN INTERESTS." SENSATIONALIST "EVENING HERALD" TOLD EMBOFF IT PLANS TO PHONE AEC IN GERMANTOWN DIRECTLY, LATER TODAY, ALTHOUGH WE DISCOURAGED THEM FROM DOING SO. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, IF CALL IS RECEIVED, AEC RESPOND THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF SITUATION AND EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE IS BEING DONE. SORENSON

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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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